

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced today that \$350,000 for Franklin County bus service will be included in the FY '01 Transportation appropriations bill.

"Public transportation is especially crucial in rural areas because it links residents to economic opportunities and services," said Rep. Olver. "This expansion is a step toward comprehensive public transportation in Franklin County and will help to create jobs and improve the quality of life for residents."

Before implementation of the expansion, FRTA will interview area employers to determine the need for additional service. Currently the "Valley Route," which began on April 3, 2000 and runs from Greenfield to Franklin, will be expanded to include service to the town of Greenfield.

Also included in the FY '01 Transportation appropriations bill is language that requires the Department of Transportation to conduct a study of the need for additional public transportation projects in Central and Western Massachusetts.

"If this language has its desired effect, transportation projects in Central and Western Massachusetts will be given priority for funding," said Rep. Olver.

###